

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. URUGUAY: NEW PRESIDENT ALREADY IN TROUBLE

PRESIDENT MENDEZ' FIRST TWO WEEKS IN OFFICE HAVE BEEN STORMY, REPORTS EMBASSY MONTEVIDEO. MENDEZ WAS UNPOPULAR EVEN BEFORE TAKING THE OATH BECAUSE HE WAS NAMED FOR A FIVE-YEAR TERM WHEN THE POPULACE EXPECTED A THREE YEAR INTERIM PRESIDENCY. MATTERS WERE NOT HELPED WHEN HE SIGNED CONSTITUTIONAL DECREE 4, DEPRIVING VIRTUALLY ALL PROMINENT POLITICIANS OF THEIR POLITICAL RIGHTS FOR FIFTEEN YEARS. THIS LED TO THE RESIGNATION OF MINISTER OF ECONOMY VEGH, EDITORIAL PROTESTS AND SERIOUS RIFTS IN THE GOVERNMENT. THE EMBASSY HAS HEARD RUMBLINGS FROM MIDDLE-GRADE MILITARY MEN ABOUT THE INEPTNESS OF THE MILITARY IN FORCING BORDABERRY'S RESIGNATION AND INSTALLING MENDEZ. URUGUAYAN POLITICIANS ARE REPORTEDLY DETERMINED TO REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL

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ALOOF FROM THE GOVERNMENT, CONVINCED IT CANNOT LAST MORE

THAN A YEAR. (CONFIDENTIAL) MONTEVIDEO 3438, 9/15.)

2. MEXICO: RUMORS OF COUP

EMBASSY MEXICO REPORTS SEVERAL CALLS IN RECENT DAYS WARNING OR INQUIRING ABOUT AN IMPENDING COUP. A MEXICAN BUSINESS-

MAN WITH GOM CONTACTS SAID THERE EXISTS WIDESPREAD CONCERN THAT PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA IS MANUFACTURING A SITUATION WHICH WOULD PERMIT HIM TO DECLARE A STATE OF EMERGENCY AND EXTEND HIS TERM OF OFFICE.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THERE IS COLLECTIVE ANXIETY AS MEXICO ENTERS THE LAST THREE MONTHS OF ECHEVERRIA'S TERM--ANXIETY BASED ON THE KNOWLEDGE THAT HE IS A DEVIOUS MAN WITH A STRONG LOVE OF POWER. APPARENTLY EVEN ECHEVERRIA'S SUPPORTERS DISTRUST HIM ENOUGH TO CONSIDER A STATE OF EMERGENCY SCENARIO CONCEIVABLE. (CONFIDENTIAL) MEXICO 11917, 9/16.)

3. AGEE FINGERS CIA AGENTS IN JAMAICA

AT A PUBLIC MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 14 PHILIP AGEE SAID THERE IS A CIA OFFICE ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF THE CHANCERY OF EMBASSY KINGSTON. ALTHOUGH AGEE REFUSED AT THE MEETING TO NAME ALLEGED AGENTS, HE SAID HE HAD ADVISED THE "PROPER AUTHORITIES" OF THE NAMES OF THE CIA STAFF IN KINGSTON. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) KINGSTON 3911, 9/15.)

4. SOVIETS BLAST JAPAN OVER MIG DEFECTOR

THE SOVIETS BROKE THEIR PUBLIC SILENCE OVER THE MIG DEFECTOR CASE ON SEPTEMBER 14 WITH A BITTER TASS STATEMENT WHICH CLAIMED:

--BELENKO STRAYED OFF COURSE, MADE AN EMERGENCY LANDING AND WAS "WHISKED AWAY" BY THE JAPANESE, "APPARENTLY AGAINST HIS WILL.

--"THIRD COUNTRIES HAVE INTERFERED" IN THE MATTER,
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"WITH JAPANESE CONNIVANCE."

--JAPANESE ACTIONS HAVE BEEN "OPENLY UNFRIENDLY" TO THE USSR, AGGRAVATING PRESENT AND FUTURE SOVIET-JAPANESE RELATIONS.

A JAPANESE EMBASSY OFFICER TOLD EMBASSY MOSCOW THE SOVIETS IN MOSCOW AND TOKYO HAD DELIVERED VERY HARSH MESSAGES DE-

MANDING THE RETURN OF THE PLANE AND PILOT, AND HAD BEEN "EXTREMELY HIGH-HANDED." BILATERAL RELATIONS, THE OFFICER SAID, ARE NOW "VERY BAD INDEED" AND THE DETERIORATION IS ACCELERATING.

EMBASSY MOSCOW COMMENT: THE TASS STATEMENT RAISES THE LEVEL OF OUTRAGE A SIGNIFICANT NOTCH AND DEMONSTRATES SOVIET FRUSTRATION AND HELPLESSNESS. MOSCOW MAY FEEL THAT MAKING ITS POSITION PUBLIC COULD CAUSE THE JAPANESE TO TEMPORIZE IN GRANTING ACCESS TO "THIRD COUNTRIES." (CONFIDENTIAL) MOSCOW 14512, 9/15.)

5. CANADA: CLARK BACKS NATO

EMBASSY OTTAWA REPORTS THAT WHILE ON A WELL-PUBLICIZED TOUR OF EUROPE, OPPOSITION LEADER JOE CLARK HAS SPOKEN OUT STRONGLY IN SUPPORT OF NATO. CLARK HAS CALLED FOR:

--INCREASED CANADIAN MILITARY SPENDING; AND
--A STRONGER GOC COMMITMENT TO THE DEFENSE OF WESTERN EUROPE.

EMBASSY COMMENT: WHILE ONE SHOULD BE CAREFUL WITH CAMPAIGN PROMISES, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT CLARK AND THE PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVES ARE SINCERELY CALLING FOR A GREATER CANADIAN ROLE IN NATO. (CONFIDENTIAL) OTTAWA 3691, 9/14.) ROBINSON

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